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POEMS. ['] BY MR. GRAY.

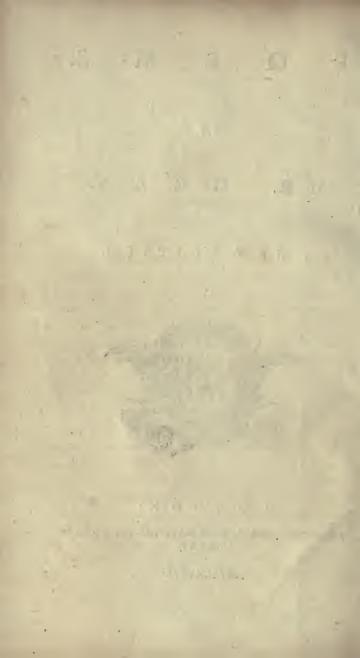
A NEW EDITION.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. MURRAY, (No. 32.) FLEET-STREET.

MDCCLXXXVI.



A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

S OON after the publication of a former edition of Mr. Gray's poems, the Rev. Mr. Mason, author of Elfrida, gave notice to the publisher by a particular mession that he had trespassed upon his property, by inferting fifty lines * in his volume which belonged to him, and threatened to seek legal redress in case fatisfaction was not made for this offence.

To this ftrange charge, the publifher could hardly give credit. The practice of taking moderate extracts from publications of all kinds is common to every bookfeller, and every author, over the kingdom; and no perfon takes greater liberties in this way than Mr. Dodfley, the bookfeller employed by Mr. Mafon.— Nay, Mr. Mafon himfelf had behaved in the manner complained of, and adapted without fcruple to

* Mr. Mafon claimed, befides, Ode for Music, irregular; which, however, he failed to establish.

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his quarto edition of Mr. Gray's poems, a large extract which he took from another work. It was true alfo, that the *fifty lines* had been printed indiferiminately by others, who pretended to no exclufive property in them, that they were not written by Mr. Mafon, nor bequeathed to him particularly by the author.

From every circumftance attending this matter, the ridicule of the claim became flronger. But fufpecting that a gentleman of Mr. Mafon's found fenfe and good character muft have jufter grounds to proceed upon than what appeared upon the face of his meffage, the publifher requefted to be favoured with his addrefs, in order to have a perfonal conference with him upon the fubject; and at the fame time affured his agent, that he meant not defignedly to invade or to injure Mr. Mafon's property: Whether his meffenger began to view the object of his miffion in too ludicrous a view, is unknown, but it is certain he refufed to comply with this civil requifition,

- The publifher, however, defirous to come to an explanation concerning this matter, procured Mr. Mafon's addrefs through another channel, and waited upon him.

ii

At this conference he proved, firft, That it was the immemorial practice of bookfellers to take extracts from new publications, and that none amongft them turned this practice to more account than Mr. Mafon's bookfeller *; and, fecondly, that even fuppofing the act complained of to be an offence, it was hard to fingle out the prefent publifher to render legal compenfation, who was not the firft aggreffor, as the book had been printed by others who pretended to no exclusive right in it, long before his edition became extant; nor had he ever previoufly heard of Mr. Mafon's pre-

* Mr. Becket in the year 1769 published, at the price of One or Two Shillings, a well-written and popular poem, confifting of about 200 veries, intitled " An Ode, upon dedicating a Building, " and erecting a Statue, to Shakespeare : by Mr. Garrick." Mr. Dodfley without scruple applied this performance to his own use, by inferting it intire in the Annual Register. Has Mr. Dodsley made any compensation for this deliberate act of piracy to the proprietor ? Or has Mr. Becket fought redrefs for the injury by a Chancery fuit? Again, has Mr. Doufley offered any compensation to Mr. Murray for the different piracies he has committed upon his books? Or do Mr. Mafon and his bookfeller affume an exclusive right to appropriate to their respective uses what portion they please of every new literary performance that comes abroad, while they profecute another perfon with the utmost feverity of the law for taking the fame liberty ? Mr. Dodfley takes deliberately every year 1000 verfes for the use of his Annual Register with impunity; but the printing of .50 verfes inadvertently by the prefent publisher is converted into an heinous trefpais, and becomes the ground of a rigorous legal investigation.

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111

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tenfions. But in order to fhow how little reafon the author of Elfrida had particularly to cenfure him, without entering at all into the practice of the trade on one hand, or the claim of property on the other, he defired Mr. Mafon to fpecify what fum he chofe to receive as compenfation for the offence complained of.

The publisher never admitted Mr. Mason's legal right of property in these verses:—but a great deal could not be exacted for *fifty lines*; and he wished no gentleman of respectable character to impute a deliberate injury to him, which he was certainly very far from intending.

Mr. Mafon remained filent to his overture; and after repeating it to him as diffinctly as he could, the publifher took his leave, imagining he wanted time to confider of it.

Such is the faithful account of this little tranfaction; nor will Mr. Mafon deny its authenticity or exactnefs. The publifher was a ftranger to Mr. Gray's executor, except by reputation. He is unconfcious of having failed in the refpect due to him; and the value of Mr. Mafon's character would not have fuffered diminution, had he been equally difgofed

iv

posed to treat the publisher with civility and attention.

It was hardly poffible after this equitable procedure, to expect to be troubled with an oppreffive profecution; from any man fuch conduct would have been effecemed ungenerous; from a clergyman, whofe duty it is to fow peace and good-will amongft men, it wears not a more favourable afpect.

Mr. Mafon, neverthelefs, without further notice, filed a bill in Chancery against the publisher; and retained Mr. Thurlow, Mr. Wedderburn, and Mr. Dunning for his counsel *.

Fifty lines furely cannot be an object for a man to throw a hundred pounds, or more money, after; it leads an impartial perfon to fufpect, that Mr. Mafon has a further object in view; and that, although

* Mr. Mafon fends an agent profeffedly to require fatisfaction or compenfation for an infringement of property. Without entering into the merits of this claim, he is defired to preferibe his own terms of redrefs. In return for this offer, he files a bill in Chancery againft the fuppofed offender, and continues to urge his fuit, merely to load the defendant with cofts; for he cannot entertain the most diffant idea of being awarded damages for an infringement of 50 *lines* of *linterary property*, admitting (which is by no means granted) that his claim is founded.

Let this behaviour be reconciled to honour, to morality, or (as Mr. Mason is in holy orders) to the practice of piety l

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he has realized already nearly one thoufand pounds from the profits of his quarto edition of Mr. Gray's poems, he is not fatisfied, but defires to fupprefs the publisher's little volume altogether, although it has not hitherto paid the expences incurred in printing it, in order to retain the monopoly of Mr. Gray's poems intirely in his own hands.

If his behaviour can be reconciled to a better principle, the publifher will readily confefs it, and wifhes to difcover a motive lefs felfifh, in order to fpeak of it; for although he difapproves of his conduct, he difclaims all animofity towards Mr. Mafon, and is forry that the prefent recital does not tend more to the credit of his character.

But Mr. Mason means to erect a monument in Westminster Abbey to the memory of Mr. Gray *, with the profits acquired by his book;—will this intention, difinterested as it is, if true, justify or excuse his present proceeding against a man, who, so far from offending, has offered him his own terms of compensation for an action, merely because he *complained*, though it was morally just?

* This report is new. Perhaps it has commenced fince the date of Mr. Murray's public letter to Mr. Mafon. In any view, however, we confers the facrifice of his emolument to be great.

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In erecting a monument to the honour of Mr. Gray, let Mr. Mafon be careful that he does not, by his behaviour, unthinkingly erect one of another kind for himfelf. Nor fhould this advice be defpifed, becaufe it proceeds from a perfon he but little regards; truth being the fame, through whatever channel it runs.

After this detail, it remains to fay fomething of the prefent edition; and this can be comprized within a very few words. It cannot be denied that it appears under fome difadvantages; but there are advantages to compenfate for thefe: The reader is left in full poffeffion of all Mr. Gray's valuable and befe poems; and fome articles are added which are not to be met with in any other edition of the author's works. The plates are engraved at a confiderable expence from original defigns; and four NEW PLATES have been defigned and engraved for this edition.

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vii

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CONTENTS.

Page **DVERTISEMENT** to this Edition T A Short Account of the Life and Writings of Mr. Gray -II Last Will and Testament of Mr. Gray - -25 Tears of Genius, an Ode, to the Memory of Mr. Gray ----33 Ode on the Spring - - - - -43 Ode on the Death of a favourite Cat, drowned in a Tub of Gold Fifhes - - - -49 Ode on a diftant Prospect of Eton College 55 A Long Story -65 Ode to Adverfity - - - -77 The Progrefs of Poefy, a Pindaric Ode -83 The Bard, a Pindaric Ode 95 The Fatal Sifters, an Ode -III The Defcent of Odin, an Ode - -119 The Triumphs of Owen, a Fragment -131 Ode for Mufic - - - - - - -- 135 Epitaph on Mrs. Clarke -145 Elegy written in a Country Church-yard -149

日本国主王がの 0.000 in an Co. in The Service The Table Could Find the A.T. and a area dir di alla The the state with the second · Instruction Dama Anglian

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF MR. GRAY.

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M R. THOMAS GRAY, the fubject of this memoir, was born in Cornhill, the twenty-fixth day of December 1716. His grandfather had been B a con-

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A SHORT ACCOUNT OF

a confiderable merchant; but his father, Mr. Philip Gray, exercifed the trade of a money-forivener; and being of an indolent difpofition, he did not add to his paternal fortune. He neglected not, however, the education of his fon, whom he fent to Eton fochool; where he contracted an intimacy with Mr. Horace Walpole, who is at prefent fo diftinguished in the republic of letters; and with Mr. Richard West, a young gentleman of uncommon ability, whose father was Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

From Eton Mr. Gray, in the year 1734, removed to Cambridge, and was admitted a penfioner of St. Peter's College. Mr. Weft went to ftudy in Chrift-Church College at Oxford; and thefe ingenious

xii

MR. GRAY.

genious friends now commenced an epiftolary correspondence, which, though not unworthy of their years, and of the hopes conceived of them, they little imagined was, one day, to be laid before the public.

They were not long in their refpective universities, when they turned their attention to the study of the law. For, with that view, they found themselves in London in the year 1738. Mr. West took chambers in the Inner Temple; but Mr. Gray being invited by Mr. Walpole to accompany him in his travels, delayed, for a time, his application to a fcience, which, furely, did not suit either his temper or his genius.

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xlii

xiv A SHORT ACCOUNT OF

The improvement he received from vifiting France and Italy, was doubtlefs very great. But the pleafure arifing from his travels, was painfully interrupted by the difagreement which arofe between him and Mr. Walpole. Their dispositions were different. The pensive and philosophical turn of the former, did not well agree with the gaiety and liveliness of the latter. They had fet out in the end of the year 1739, and they parted at Reggio in the year 1741. Many years, however, did not pafs till a reconciliation was produced between them, by the intervention and offices of a lady, who had a friendship for both.

On Mr. Gray's return to London *,

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* September 1741.

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MR. GRAY.

he found his father altogether wasted with the fevere attacks of the gout, to which he had long been fubject. Two months after he loft him, and fucceeded to a scanty patrimony. The intention he had formed, of fludying the law as a profession, began now to be shaken. But his friends urging him to maintain his original purpofe, and the delicacy of his nature inducing him not to give them uneafinefs, by too fudden a declaration of the state of his mind. he went to Cambridge, and took his Batchelor's degree in the Civil Law. The time he had paffed in his travels, the intense labour required by the study of the Common Law, and, above all, the narrowness of his fortune, estranged him from a defign, which perhaps he B 3 had

. xv

xvi A SHORT ACCOUNT OF

had never entertained with affection or ardour; and the anxiety excited by this undecifiveness as to the scheme of life he should follow, was now embittered by the sickness of Mr. West, who had some time languissed in a consumption; and who, in June 1742, in the twentyfixth year of his age, fell an unsufpecting victim to this distemper.

A fhort time before this cruel event, Mr. Gray had gone to vifit his mother, in her retirement at Stoke, near Windfor, where he wrote his beautiful Ode on the Spring. And it is not impoffible, but a prefage of what was to happen, occafioned the interesting melancholy which reigns in it. His regrets it is eafier to conceive than to defcribe; MR. G R A Y. xvii

fcribe; and they feem immediately to have given birth to a very tender fonnet in English, in the manner of 'Petrarque, and to a noble apostrophe in Latin, which he intended as the introduction to one of his books, De principiis cogitandi *. It is also worthy of observation, that within three months after Mr. Weft's death, he appears to have composed the Ode on a distant prospect of Eton College, and the Hymn to Adyerfity. Nor is it to be doubted, that his forrow for his beloved friend gave a tone to these delightful poems; and the reader of fenfibility, who perufes them under this impression, will find an additional charm in them.

* See his Memoirs by Mr. Mason.

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xviii A SHORT ACCOUNT OF

The genius of Mr. Gray, which was averse from the mechanism and toil of business, joined to his passion for study and literature, inclined him to live at Cambridge, where he had free access to many valuable libraries. From the winter of the year 1742, to the end of his life, it was the feat of his refidence; and he was feldom absent from it, except on occafional vifits to his mother, and during that period *, when, on the opening of the British Museum, he took lodgings in Southampton-Row, for the purpose of examining, and extracting from, the Harleian and other manufcripts.

It was not till the year 1750, that * Between the years 1759 and 1762.

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MR. GRAY.

he put the last hand to his much-celebrated Elegy in a Country Church-yard. Mr. Walpole, who was infinitely delighted with it, communicated it in manufcript to many perfons of diffinetion, who failed not to feel for and to bestow on the author the admiration and applause he so justly merited. In this polite and fashionable circle was Lady Cobham, who wishing much to be acquainted with Mr. Gray, procured this pleafure, by the means of her relation Mifs Speed, and of Lady Schaub. The hiftory of this incident, the circumstances of which were fomewhat peculiar, he has thrown into a ballad, intitled, A True Story. Of this piece the humour does not appear very firiking; and, though it has found admirers, the author

xix

XX A SHORT ACCOUNT OF

thor himfelf refused it a place in his own edition of his poems.

The year 1753 was memorable to Mr. Gray, by the loss of his mother, whom he loved with an exemplary affection. In the year 1756, fome young men, who lived in the fame ftair-cafe, and who fancied that birth and fortune gave them a title to be impertinent, difturbing him frequently and intentionally with their infults and riots. he found it neceffary to remove from Peter-house. and went to Pembroke-hall. In the year 1768, by the unfolicited influence of the Duke of Grafton, he was nominated King's Professor of Modern Hiftory in the University of Cambridge, a place of 4001, a year,

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MR. GRAY.

It appears, that in the early part of his life, he had entertained the defire of publishing an edition of Strabo; and, among his papers, there were many geographical difquifitions, which had been made with that intention. He alfo left many explanatory and critical observations on the writings of Plato; and he had bestowed uncommon labour on the Anthologia. A project worthy of him, and more interesting than any of those, was, A History of English Poetry, on which he had long meditated, but thought proper to abandon, when he was informed that Mr. Warton, of Trinity College, Oxford, was engaged in a fimilar purfuit.

Among the branches of knowledge in

xxii A SHORT ACCOUNT OF

in which he excelled, it would be improper not to mention Architecture; and his skill in Heraldry was exact and extensive. But what was most peculiarly to his tafte, and engaged his attention the most constantly, was Natural History: He left many notes on Linnæus, and on Hudson's Flora Anglica; and while employed on Zoology, he ftudied Aristotle on that subject, and explained many of the obscure passages of that diftinguished Antient. Music he knew most exquisitely; and, while abroad, he had acquired a fkill in Painting. In a word, if Mathematics are excepted, there was not a part of human learning which he had not cultivated with fuccefs.

A pro-

MR. GRAY. xxiii

- A propenfity to melancholy, the conftant attendant of genius, was observable in Mr. Gray, from his earlieft years; and an hereditary gout ferved to encourage it. About the end of May 1771, he made a visit to London; but being oppressed with feverishness, and dejection of mind, he was advised to leave his lodgings in Jermyn-Street for Kenfington; where a freer air fo far operated to his recovery, as to enable him to return to Cambridge. On the 24th of July, however, a fudden ficknefs, while at dinner, made him retire to his chamber, from the College hall. His malady, which was found to be the gout in his stomach, continued to increafe, and baffled all the art of medicine. On the 29th, a ftrong convultionfit

xxiv A SHORT ACCOUNT, &c.

fit feized him; it returned with additional violence on the 30th; and the evening after, this ingenious poet, and cultivated fcholar, ceafed to adorn England and human nature.

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LAST WILL and TESTAMENT

MR. THOMAS GRAY.

EXTRACTED FROM

The REGISTRY of the PREROGATIVE COURT of CANTERBURY.

JA the Mame of God. Amen. I THOMAS GRAY, of Pembroke-hall, in the univerfity of Cambridge, being of found mind and in good health of body, yet ignorant how long these bleffings may be indulged me, Do make this my last will and testament in manner and form

form following : First, I do defire that my body may be deposited in the vault made by my late dear mother in the church - yard of Stoke - Pogeis, near Slough, in Buckinghamshire, near her remains, in a coffin of feafoned oak, neither lined or covered, and (unlefs it be very inconvenient) I could with that one of my Executors may fee me laid in the grave, and distribute among fuch honest and industrious poor perfons in the faid parish as he thinks fit, the fum of ten pounds in charity. Next I give to George Williamson, Esq; my second coufin by the father's fide, now of Calcutta in Bengal, the fum of five hundred pounds, Reduced Bank Annuities, now ftanding in my name. I give to Anna Lady Goring, also my fecond coufin by the father's fide, of the county of Suffex, five hundred pounds Reduced Bank Annuities, and a pair of large blue and white I

xxvi

MR. GRAY.

white old Japan china jars. Item, I give to Mary Antrobus, of Cambridge, spinster, my fecond coufin by the mother's fide, all that my freehold eftate and house in the parish of St. Michael, Cornhill, London, now let at the yearly rent of fixty-five pounds, and in the occupation of Mr. Nortgeth, perfumer, provided that she pay out of the faid rent, by half-yearly payments, Mrs. Jane Olliffe, my aunt, of Cambridge, widow, the fum of Twenty pounds per ann. during her natural life; and after the decease of the faid Jane Olliffe, I give the faid estate to the faid Mary Antrobus, To Have and To Hold, to her, her heirs and affigns for ever. Further I bequeath to the faid Mary Antrobus the fum of fix hundred pounds, New South-Sea Annuities, now standing in the joint names of Jane Olliffe and Thomas Gray, but charged with the payment of five pounds C

xxvii

XXVIII

pounds per ann. to Graves Stokeley, of Stoke-Pogeis, in the county of Bucks; which fum of fix hundred pounds, after the decease of the faid annuitant, does (by the will of Anne Rogers, my late aunt) belong folely and entirely to me; together with all overplus of intereft in the mean time accruing. Further, if at the time of my decease there shall be any arrear of falary due to me from his Majesty's treasury, I give all such arrears to the faid Mary Antrobus. Item, I give to Mrs. Dorothy Comyns, of Cambridge, my other fecond coufin by the mother's fide, the fums of fix hundred pounds, Old South-Sea Annuities; of three hundred pounds, Four per Cent. Bank Annuities Confolidated; and of two hundred pounds Three per Cent. Bank Annuities Confolidated; all now standing in my name. I give to Richard Stonehewer, Efq; one of his Majefty's

MR. G R A Y.

Majesty's Commissioners of Excise, the fum of five hundred pounds, Reduced Bank Annuities; and I beg his acceptance of one of my diamond rings. I give to Dr. Thomas Wharton, of Old Park, in the bishopric of Durham, five hundred pounds, Reduced Bank Annuities; and defire him also to accept of one of my diamond rings. I give to my fervant, Stephen Hempstead, the fum of fifty pounds, Reduced Bank Annuities; and if he continues in my fervice to the time of my death, I alfo give him all my wearing apparel and linen. I give to my two coufins above mentioned, Mary Antrobus and Dorothy Comyns, all my plate, watches, rings, china ware, bed linen, and table linen, and the furniture of my chambers at Cambridge, not otherwise bequeathed, to be equally and amicably shared between them. I give to the Reverend C 2 Wil-

xix

William Mason, Precentor of York, all my books, manuscripts, coins, music, printed or written, and papers of all kinds, to preferve or deftroy at his own diferetion : And after my just debts and the expences of my funeral are discharged, all the refidue of my perfonal eftate whatfoever I do hereby give and bequeath to the faid Reverend William Mason and to the Reverend Mr. James Browne, Prefident of Pembroke-hall, Cambridge, to be equally divided between them; defiring them to apply the fum of two hundred pounds to an use of charity, concerning which I have already informed them: and I do hereby constitute and appoint them, the faid William Mafon and James Browne, to be joint executors of this my last will and testament. And if any relation of mine, or other legatee, shall go about to molest, or commence any fuit against, my faid I exe-

XXX

MR. GRAY. .xxi

executors in the execution of their office, I do, as far as the law will permit me, hereby revoke and make void all fuch bequests or legacies as I had given to that perfon or perfons, and give it to be divided between my faid executors and refiduary legatees, whofe integrity and kindness I have so long experienced, and who can best judge of my true intention and meaning. In witnefs whereof, I have hereunto fet my hand and feal this fecond day of July, 1770.

THOMAS GRAY.

Signéd, sealed, published, and declared by the faid Thomas Gray, the testator, as, and for, his last will and testament, in the prefence of us; who in his prefence, and at his request, and in the prefence of each other, C 3 have

LAST WILL OF, &c.

XXXII

have figned our names as witneffes hereto,

> Richard Baker, Thomas Wilson, Joseph Turner.

Proved at London the twelfth of August, 1771, before the Worshipful Andrew Coltre Ducarel, Doctor of Laws, and Surrogate, by the oaths of the Reverend William Mason, Clerk, Master of Arts, and the Reverend James Browne, Clerk, Master of Arts, the executors; to whom administration was granted, having been first fworn duly to administer.

JOHN STEVENS, HENRY STEVENS, GEO. GOSTLING, jun.

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TEARS OF GÉNIUS.

ANODE.

TOTHE

MEMORY OF MR. GRAY.

(Br J. T----.)

O N Cham's fair banks, where Learning's hallow'd fane Majeftic rifes on th' aftonifh'd fight, Where oft the mufe has led the favourite fwain, And warm'd his foul with Heaven's infpiring light,

Beneath the covert of the fylvan fhade, Where deadly cyprefs, mix'd with mournful yew, Far o'er the vale a gloomy ftillnefs fpread, Celeftial Genius burft upon the view.

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xxxiv TEARS OF GENIUS.

The bloom of youth, the majefty of years, The foften'd afpect, innocent and kind, The figh of forrow, and the ftreaming tears, Refiftlefs all, their various pow'r combin'd.

In her fair hand a filver harp fhe bore,

Whole magic notes, loft-warbling from the ftring, Give tranquil joy the breaft ne'er knew before,

Or raife the foul on rapture's airy wing. By grief impell'd, I heard her heave a figh, While thus the rapid firain refounded thro' the fky:

Hafte, ye fifter powers of fong, Haften from the fhady grove,Where the river rolls along, Sweetly to the voice of love.

Where, indulging mirthful pleafures, Light you prefs the flow'ry green, And from Flora's blooming treafures Cull the wreaths for fancy's queen:

Where your gently-flowing numbers, Floating on the fragrant breeze, Sink the foul in pleafing flumbers, On the downy bed of eafe.

TEARS OF GENIUS.

For graver ftrains prepare the plaintive lyre, That wakes the fofteft feelings of the foul; Let lonely grief the melting verfe infpire, Let deep'ning forrow's folemn accents roll.

> Rack'd by the hand of rude difeafe Behold our fav'rite poet lies ! While every object form'd to pleafe, Far from his couch ungrateful flies.

The blifsful mufe, whofe favouring fmile So lately warm'd his peaceful breaft, Diffufing heavenly joys the while,

In transport's radiant garments dreft, With darkfome grandeur and enfeebl'd blaze, Sinks in the fhades of night, and fhuns his eager gaze.

The gaudy train, who wait on SPRING *, Ting'd with the pomp of vernal pride, The youth who mount on pleafure's wing †, And idly fports on Thames's fide, With cool regard their various arts employ, Nor roufe the drooping mind, nor give the paufe of joy.

* Ode on SPRING.

† Ode on the Prospect of ETON COLLEGE.

Ha!

XXXX.

TEARS OF GENIUS.

xxxvi

Ha! what forms, with port fublime *, Glide along in fullen mood, Scorning all the threats of time, High above misfortune's flood ?

They feize their harps, they firike the lyre, With rapid hand, with freedom's fire. Obedient nature hears the lofty found, And Snowdon's airy cliffs the heavenly firains refound.

In pomp of ftate, behold they wait, With arms outfiretch'd, and afpects kind, To fnatch on high to yonder fky, The child of fancy left behind : Forgot the woes of Cambria's fatal day, By rapture's blaze impell'd, they fwell the artlefs lay.

But ah in vain they ftrive to footh, With gentle arts, the tort'ring hours; ADVERSITY †, with rankling tooth, Her baleful gifts profufely pours.

Behold fhe comes, the fiend forlorn, Array'd in horror's fettled gloom;

> * BARD, an Ode. † Hymn to ADVERSITY.

> > She -

TEARS OF GENIUS. xxxvii

She ftrews the briar and prickly thorn, And triumphs in th' infernal doom. With frantic fury and infatiate rage, She knaws the throbbing breaft, and blafts the glowing page.

No more the foft EOLIAN flute * Breathes thro' the heart the melting ftrain; The powers of Harmony are mute, And leave the once-delightful plain; With heavy wing I fee them beat the air, Damp'd by the leaden hand of comfortlefs defpair.

Yet flay, O! flay, celeftial pow'rs, And with a hand of kind regard, Difpel the boift'rous florm that lours Deftructive on the fav'rite bard; O watch with me his laft expiring breath, And fnatch him from the arms of dark, oblivious death.

Hark the FATAL SISTERS + join, And with horror's mutt'ring founds, Weave the tiffue of his line, While the dreadful fpell refounds.

> * The PROGRESS OF POETRY.' † The FATAL SISTERS, an Ode.

> > " Hail,

xxxviii TEARS OF GENIUS."

- " Hail, ye midnight fifters, hail, " Drive the fhuttle fwift along ;
- " Let our fecret charms prevail
- " O'er the valiant and the ftrong.
- " O'er the glory of the land, " O'er the innocent and gay,
- " O'er the muses' tuneful band,
 - " Weave the fun'ral web of Gray."

'Tis done, 'tis done—the iron hand of pain, With ruthlefs fury and corrofive force, Racks every joint, and feizes every vein: He finks, he groans, he falls a lifelefs corfe.

Thus fades the flow'r nip'd by the frozen gale, Tho' once fo fweet, fo lovely to the eye: Thus the tall oaks, when boift'rous florms affail, Torn from the earth, a mighty ruin lye.

Ye facred fifters of the plaintive verfe,

- Now let the ftream of fond affection flow;
- O pay your tribute o'er the flow-drawn herfe, With all the manly dignity of wee.
- Oft when the Curfew tolls its parting knell, With folemn paufe yon CHURCH-YARD's gloom furvey;

While

TEARS OF GENIUS.

While forrow's fighs, and tears of pity tell, How just the moral of the poet's lay *.

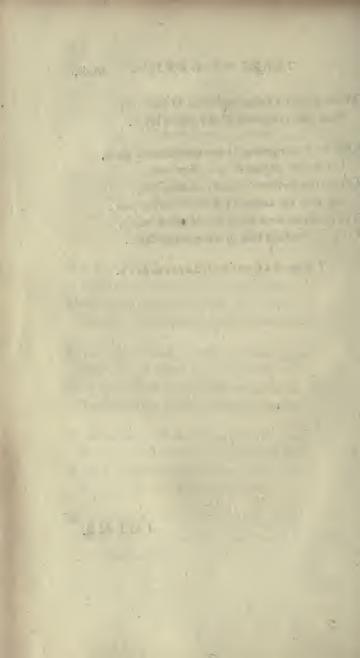
O'er his green grave, in contemplation's guife, Oft let the pilgrim drop a filent tear; Oft let the fhepherd's tender accents rife,

Big with the fweets of each revolving year; Till proftrate time adore his deathlefs name, Fix'd on the folid bafe of adamantine fame.

* Elegy in a COUNTRY CHURCH-YARD.

POEMS.

xxxix



POEMS.

BY

MR. GRAY.





ODE ON SPRING.



Beside some waters rushy brink With me the Muse shall sit, & think, (At Ease rectined in rustic state,) How vain the ardour of the croud, How low, how little are the proud, How indigent the Great !

London: 1 Jan ! 1780, Publishid as the Act directs, by J.Murray Noga Fleet Street.

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S P R I N G

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O! where the rofy-bofom'd hours, Fair VENUS' train, appear, Difclofe the long-expecting flowers, And wake the purple year ! The Attic warbler pours her throat, Refponfive to the cuckow's note, The untaught harmony of fpring: While, whifp'ring pleafure as they fly, Cool Zephyrs thro' the clear blue fky Their gather'd fragrance fling.

D

Where-

44 ODE ON THE SPRING.

Where-e'er the oak's thick branches ftretch A broader browner fhade; Where-e'er the rude and mofs-grown beech O'er-canopies the glade; Befide fome water's rufhy brink With me the Mufe fhall fit, and think, (At eafe reclin'd in ruftic ftate), How vain the ardour of the crowd, How low, how little are the proud, How indigent the great!

Still is the toiling hand of Care; The panting herds repofe: Yet hark, how thro' the peopled air The bufy murmur glows! The infect youth are on the wing, Eager to tafte the honied fpring,

-5

And

ODE ON THE SPRING.

And float amid the liquid noon : Some lightly o'er the current fkim, Some fhew their gayly-gilded trim Quick-glancing to the fun.

To Contemplation's fober eye Such is the race of man: And they that creep, and they that fly, Shall end where they began. Alike the bufy and the gay But flutter thro' life's little day, In Fortune's varying colours dreft : Brufh'd by the hand of rough Mifchance, Or chill'd by Age, their airy dance They leave in duft to reft.

Methinks I hear, in accents low, The fportive kind reply; Poor Moralift! and what art thou? A folitary fly!

D 2

Thy

45

ODE ON THE SPRING.

16

. .

Thy joys no glitt'ring female meets, No hive haft thou of hoarded fweets, No painted plumage to difplay: On hafty wings thy youth is flown; Thy fun is fet, thy fpring is gone— We frolic while 'tis May.

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O D E

ON THE DEATH OF A

FAVOURITE CAT.

Drowned in a Tub of Gold Fifhes.

D 3



O D E

ON THE DEATH OF A FAVOURITE CAT. Drowned in a Tub of Gold Fifhes.

T WAS on a lofty vafe's fide, Where China's gayeft art had dy'd The azure flowers, that blow; Demureft of the tabby kind, The penfive Selima reclin'd, Gaz'd on the lake below.

Her confcious tail her joy declar'd; The fair round face, the fnowy beard,

The velvet of her paws;

D 4

Her

ODE ON THE DEATH

Her coat, that with the tortoife vies, Her cars of jet, and emerald eyes, She faw; and purr'd applaufe.

50

Still had fhe gaz'd; but 'midft the tide Two angel forms were feen to glide,

The Genii of the ftream : Their fcaly armour's Tyrian hue, Thro' richeft purple to the view Betray'd a golden gleam.

The haples nymph with wonder faw: A whisker first, and then a claw,

With many an ardent wifh, She ftretch'd, in vain, to reach the prize. What female heart can gold defpife? What cat's averfe to fifh?

Prefump-

13 199457 LET

OF A FAVOURITE CAT.

Prefumptuous maid ! with looks intent Again fhe ftretch'd, again fhe bent,

Nor knew the gulph between: (Malignant Fate fat by, and fmil'd) The flipp'ry verge her feet beguil'd, She tumbled headlong in.

Eight times emerging from the flood She mew'd to ev'ry wat'ry God,

Some fpeedy aid to fend. No Dolphin came, no Nereid ftirr'd. Nor cruel Tom, nor Sufan heard,

A fav'rite has no friend!

From hence, ye beauties, undeceiv'd, Know, one false step is ne'er retriev'd, And be with caution bold.

51

Not all that tempts your wand ring eyes, And heedlefs hearts, is lawful prize; Nor all that glifters, gold.

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Love a print and so to de the second

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1. 1 - Martin Milling

ODE

52

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O D E

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DISTANT PROSPECT

OF

ETON COLLEGE.

*Ανθρωπων ίκανη σρόφασις είς το δυςυχείν. Menander,



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als of the surling of

ETON COLLEGE.

Wald Mr. T

Y E diftant fpires, ye antique towers, That crown the wat'ry glade, Where grateful Science ftill adores Her HENRY's holy fhade; And ye, that from the flately brow Of WINDSOR's heights th' expanse below Of grove, of lawn, of mead furvey, Whofe turf, whofe fhade, whofe flowers among Wanders the hoary Thames along His filver-winding way.

Ah

56 ODE ON A DISTANT PROSPECT

Ah happy hills! ah pleafing fhade! Ah fields belov'd in vain! Where once my carelefs childhood ftray'd, A ftranger yet to pain! I feel, the gales that from ye blow, A momentary blifs beftow, As waving frefh their gladfome wing, My weary foul they feem to footh, And, redolent of joy and youth, To breathe a fecond fpring.

Say, Father THAMES, for thou haft feen Full many a fprightly race Difporting on thy margent green The paths of pleafure trace; Who foremost now delight to cleave, With pliant arms, thy glaffy wave?

OF ETON COLLEGE. ST

The captive linnet, which enthral? What idle progeny fucceed To chafe the rolling circle's fpeed, Or urge the flying ball?

While fome on earneft bufinefs bent Their murm'ring labours ply 'Gainft graver hours, that bring conftraint To fweeten liberty : Some bold adventurers difdain The limits of their little reign, And unknown regions dare defcry : Still as they run they look behind, They hear a voice in every wind, And fnatch a fearful joy.

Gay hope is theirs by fancy fed, Lefs pleafing when poffeft; The tear forgot as foon as fhed, The funfhine of the breaft:

Theirs

58 ODE ON A DISTANT PROSPECT

Theirs buxom Health, of rofy hue, Wild wit, Invention ever-new, And lively Cheer of Vigour born; The thoughtlefs day, the eafy night, The fpirits pure, the flumbers light, That fly th' approach of morn.

Alas! regardless of their doom, The little victims play! No fense have they of ills to come, Nor care beyond to-day: Yet fee, how all around 'em wait The ministers of human fate, And black Missfortune's baleful train! Ah, show them where in ambush stand, To feize their prey, the murderous band! Ah, tell them they are men!

These shall the fury passions tear, The vultures of the mind,

Difdainful

OF ETON COLLEGE. 59

Difdainful Anger, pallid Fear, And Shame that fkulks behind; Or pining Love fhall wafte their youth, Or Jealoufy, with rankling tooth, That inly gnaws the fecret heart; And Envy wan, and faded Care, Grim-vifag'd comfortlefs Defpair, And Sorrow's piercing dart.

Ambition this fhall tempt to rife, Then whirl the wretch from high, To bitter Scorn a facrifice, And grinning Infamy. The ftings of Falfehood thofe fhall try, And hard Unkindnefs' alter'd eye, That mocks the tear it forc'd to flow; And keen Remorfe with blood defil'd, And moody Madnefs laughing wild Amid fevereft woe.

Lo,

60 ODE ON A DISTANT PROSPECT

Lo, in the Vale of Years beneath, A grifly troop are feen, The painful family of Death, More hideous than their queen: This racks the joints, this fires the veins, That every labouring finew firains, Thofe in the deeper vitals rage: Lo, Poverty, to fill the band, That numbs the foul with icy hand, And flow-confuming Age.

To each his fuff'rings: all are men, Condemn'd alike to groan; The tender for another's pain; Th' unfeeling for his own. Yet, ah! why fhould they know their fate! Since forrow never comes too late,

And

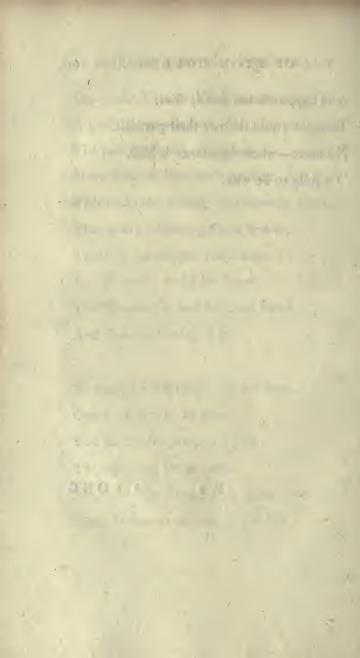
OF ETON COLLEGE.

And happiness too fwiftly flies. Thought would destroy their paradife. No more—where ignorance is bliss, 'Tis folly, to be wife.

E 2

A LONG

61



LONG STORY.

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MR. GRAY'S Elegy in the Country Church-Yard, before it appear'd in print, was handed about in manufcript ; and amongft other eminent perfonages who faw and admired it, was the Lady Cobham, who refided at the Manfion-houfe at Stoke-Pogeis. The performance induced her to wifh for the author's acquaintance; and Lady Schaub and Miss Speed, then at her house, undertook to effect it. These two ladies waited upon the author at his aunt's folitary manfion, where he at that time refided ; and not finding him at home, they left their names. Mr. Gray, furprifed at fuch a compliment, returned the vifit. And as the beginning of this acquaintance wore a little of the face of romance, he foon after gave a fanciful and pleafant account of it in the following copy of verfes, which he entitled A LONG STORY.

ALTHOUGH this performance certainly poffeffes great humour, yet it is not immediately perceived; and has not been *univerfally* relifhed. The author perceived this himfelf, and owned it candidly.— " The verfes," he writes to Dr. Wharton, " you " fo kindly try to keep in countenance, were writ-" ten merely to divert Lady Cobham and her fa-" mily, and fucceeded accordingly; but being " fhewed about in town, are not liked at all." This laft confideration induced Mr. Gray to reject them in the Collection which he himfelf made of his poems.

MR. GRAY'S Executor having thought fit to reftore them, they are retained here.

LONG STORY.

A CONTRACTOR

His holl a band, as 's [or = fring a tree

Marial

ALLUNG DUULLA

I N Britain's ifle, no matter where, An ancient pile of building ftands: The Huntingdons and Hattons there Employ'd the power of Fairy hands.

ACTION OF CAME

To raife the ceiling's fretted height, Each pannel in achievements clothing, Rich windows that exclude the light, And paffages, that lead to nothing.

E 4

Full

Full oft within the fpacious walls, When he had fifty winters o'er him, My grave Lord-Keeper led the Brawls: The Seals and Maces danc'd before him.

66

die.

1

His bufhy beard, and fhoe-ftrings green, His high-crown'd hat, and fatin doublet, Mov'd the ftout heart of England's Queen, Tho' Pope and Spaniard could not trouble it.

What, in the very first beginning! Shame of the versifying tribe! Your Histiry whither are you spinning? Can you do nothing but describe?

A Houfe there is, (and that's enough) From whence one fatal morning iffues A brace of warriors, not in buff, But ruftling in their filks and tiffues.

The

A LONG STORY.

The firft came cap-a-pee from France Her conqu'ring deftiny fulfilling, Whom meaner beauties eye afkance, And vainly ape her art of killing.

The other Amazon kind heaven Had arm'd with fpirit, wit, and fatire: But Cobham had the polifh given, And tipp'd her arrows with good-nature.

To celebrate her eyes, her air— Coarfe panegyrics would but teaze her. Meliffa is her *Nom de Guerre*. Alas, who would not wifh to pleafe her!

With bonnet blue and capuchin, And aprons long they hid their armour, And veil'd their weapons bright and keen In pity to the country-farmer.

Fame

Fame in the fhape of Mr. P—tt (By this time all the parifh know it) Had told, that thereabouts there lurk'd A wicked Imp they call a Poet;

Who prowl'd the country far and near, Bewitch'd the children of the peafants, Dried up the cows, and lam'd the deer, And fuck'd the eggs, and kill'd the pheafants.

My Lady heard their joint petition, Swore by her coronet and ermine, She'd iffue out her high commiffion To rid the manor of fuch vermin.

The Heroines undertook the tafk, Thro' lanes unknown, o'er ftiles they ventur'd, Rapp'd at the door, nor ftay'd to afk, But bounce into the parlour enter'd.

The

A LONG STORY.

The trembling family they daunt, They flirt, they fing, they laugh, they tattle, Rummage his Mother, pinch his Aunt, And up flairs in a whirlwind rattle.

Each hole and cupboard they explore, Each creek and cranny of his chamber, Run hurry-fkurry round the floor, And o'er the bed and tefter clamber;

Into the Drawers and China pry, Papers and books, a huge Imbroglio! Under a tea-cup he might lie, Or creafed, like dogs-ears, in a folio.

On the first marching of the troops The Muses, hopeless of his pardon, Convey'd him underneath their hoops To a small closet in the garden. 70

So Rumour fays: (Who will, believe.) But that they left the door a-jar, Where, fafe and laughing in his fleeve, He heard the diftant din of war.

Short was his joy. He little knew, The power of magic was no fable; Out of the window, whifk, they flew, But left a fpell upon the table.

The words too eager to unriddle The poet felt a ftrange diforder: Transparent birdlime form'd the middle, And chains invisible the border.

So cunning was the Apparatus, The powerful pothooks did fo move him, That, will he, nill he, to the Great-houfe He went, as if the devil drove him.

A LONG STORY.

Yet on his way (no fign of grace, For folks in fear are apt to pray) To Phœbus he preferr'd his cafe, And begg'd his aid that dreadful day.

The Godhead would have back'd his quarrel, But with a blufh on recollection Own'd, that his quiver and his laurel 'Gainft four fuch eyes were no protection.

The Court was fat, the Culprit there, Forth from their gloomy manfions creeping The Lady Janes and Joans repair, And from the gallery fland peeping:

Such as in filence of the night Come (fweep) along fome winding entry (Styack has often feen the fight) Or at the chapel-door fland fentry; 71

In peaked hoods and mantles tarnifh'd, Sour vifages, enough to fcare ye, High Dames of honour once, that garnifh'd The drawing-room of fierce Queen Mary!

The Peeres's comes. The Audience stare, And doff their hats with due submission: She curtifies, as she takes her chair, To all the People of condition.

The Bard with many an artful fib, Had in imagination fenc'd him, Difprov'd the arguments of *Squib*, And all that *Groom* could urge againft him.

But foon his rhetoric forfook him, When he the folemn hall had feen; A fudden fit of ague fhook him, He flood as mute as poor Macleane.

Yet

A LONG STORY.

Yet fomething he was heard to mutter,

' How in the Park beneath an old tree,

- ' (Without defign to hurt the butter,
- Or any malice to the poultry,)
- ' He once or twice had penn'd a fonnet;
- ' Yet hop'd that he might fave his bacon:
- Numbers would give their oaths upon it,
- ' He ne'er was for a conj'rer taken.'

The ghoftly prudes with hagged face Already had condemn'd the finner. My Lady rofe, and with a grace— She fmil'd, and bid him come to dinner.

' Jefu-Maria! Madam Bridget,

Why what can the Vifcountefs mean?' (Cried the fquare Hoods in woeful fidget)
The times are alter'd quite and clean!

Decorum's

A LONG STORY.

- Decorum's turn'd to mere civility;
- Her air and all her manners fhew it.
- · Commend me to her affability !
- Speak to a Commoner and Poet!'

[Here 500 Stanzas are lost.]

Contrate : Martine Mainless

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O D E

Comparing T. 1

And fo God fave our noble King, And guard us from long-winded Lubbers, That to eternity would fing, And keep my Lady from her Rubbers. Ο

D E

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A D V E R S I T Y.

F

O D E



O D E TO A D V E R S I T Y.

DAUGHTER of Jove, relentlefs power, Thou tamer of the human breaft, Whofe iron fcourge, and tort'ring hour, The bad affright, afflict the beft ! Bound in thy adamantine chain, The proud are taught to tafte of pain, And purple tyrants vainly groan With pangs unfelt before, unpitied and alone.

ODE TO ADVERSITY.

78

When firft thy Sire to fend on earth Virtue, his darling child, defign'd, To thee he gave the heavenly birth, And bade to form her infant mind. Stern rugged nurfe! thy rigid lore With patience many a year fhe bore : What forrow was, thou bad'ft her know, And from her own fhe learn'd to melt at others woe.

Scar'd at thy frown terrific, fly Self-pleafing Folly's idle brood, Wild Laughter, Noife, and thoughtlefs Joy, And leave us leifure to be good. Light they difperfe; and with them go The fummer-friend, the flatt'ring foe; By vain Profperity receiv'd, To her they vow their truth, and are again believ'd.

Wifdom

ODE TO ADVERSITY.

Wifdom in fable garb array'd, Immers'd in rapt'rous thought profound, And Melancholy, filent maid With leaden eye, that loves the ground, Still on thy folemn fteps attend : Warm Charity, the general friend, With Juffice to herfelf fevere, And Pity, dropping foft the fadly-pleafing tear.

Oh, gently on thy fuppliant's head,
Dread Goddefs, lay thy chaft'ning hand!
Not in thy Gorgon terrors clad,
Nor circled with the vengeful band
(As by the impious thou art feen)
With thund'ring voice, and threat'ning mien,
With fcreaming Horror's funeral cry,
Defpair, and fell Difeafe, and ghaftly Poverty.

F 3

Thy

29

Thy form benign, oh Goddels, wear, Thy milder influence impart, Thy philofophic train be there To foften, not to wound my heart. The gen'rous fpark extinct revive, Teach me to love, and to forgive, Exact my own defects to fcan, What others are to feel; and know myfelf a

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THE

PROGRESS OF POESY.

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PINDARIC ODE.

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Φωνάνλα συνέλοισιν' ές Δὲ τὸ ϖάν έρμηνέων Χατίζει. ——— PINDAR, Olymph. II.

F 4

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

PROGRAMME IN POTCH

When the author first published this and the following ode, he was advised, even by his friends, to subjoin fome few explanatory notes; but had too much respect for the understanding of his readers to take that liberty.

Erean, Dipagin IL.





THE PROGRESS OF POESY.

London: 1. Nov 1783, Published for J. MURRAY, Nº32 Elect Stree+

And give to rapture all they trembling strings .

THE

PROGRESS OF POESY.

A PINDARIC ODE.

Burker Brown and The art all in a strong

. I. I. HEA at stant

A^{WAKE}, Æolian lyre, awake, And give to rapture all thy trembling ftrings.

From Helicon's harmonious fprings A thoufand rills their mazy progrefs take : The laughing flowers, that round them blow, Drink life and fragrance as they flow. Now the rich ftream of mufic winds along, Deep, majeftic, fmooth, and ftrong,

all at

Thro'

84 THE PROGRESS OF POESY.

Thro' verdant vales, and Ceres' golden reign : Now rolling down the fteep amain, Headlong, impetuous, fee it pour : The rocks and nodding groves rebellow to the

roar.

II. 2.

Oh! Sovereign of the willing foul, Parent of fweet and folemn-breathing airs, Enchanting fhell! the fullen Cares, And frantic Paffions, hear thy foft controul. On Thracia's hills the Lord of War Has curb'd the fury of his car, And drop'd his thirfty lance at thy command. Perching on the fceptred hand Of Jove, thy magic lulls the feather'd king With ruffled plumes, and flagging wing: Quench'd in dark clouds of flumber lie The terror of his beak, and light'nings of his eye. · . I. I 3.

A PINDARIC ODE.

I. 3.

Thee the voice, the dance obey, Temper'd to thy warbled lay. O'er Idalia's velvet-green The rofy-crowned loves are feen On Cytherea's day With antic Sports, and blue-ey'd Pleafures, Frifking light in frolic measures: Now purfuing, now retreating, Now in circling troops they meet: To brifk notes in cadence beating, Glance their many-twinkling feet. Slow melting ftrains their Queen's approach declare :

Where-e'er fhe turns the Graces homage pay. With arms fublime, that float upon the air, In gliding flate fhe wins her eafy way:

O'er

86 THE PROGRESS OF POESY.

O'er her warm cheek, and rifing bofom, move The bloom of young defire, and purple light of Love.

II. 1.

Man's feeble race what ills await ! Labour, and Penury, the racks of Pain, Difeafe, and Sorrow's weeping train, And Death, fad refuge from the ftorms of Fate! The fond complaint, my fong, difprove, And justify the laws of Jove. Say, has he given in vain the heav'nly Mufe? Night, and all her fickly dews, Her spectres wan, and birds of boding cry, He gives to range the dreary fky: Till down the eaftern cliffs afar Hyperion's march they fpy, and glitt'ring shafts of war.

II. 2.

A PINDARIC ODE.

87

II. 2.

In climes beyond the folar road, Where fhaggy forms o'er ice-built mountains

roam,

The Mufe has broke the twilight gloom, To cheer the fhiv'ring native's dull abode. And oft beneath the od'rous fhade. Of Chili's boundlefs forefts laid, She deigns to hear the favage youth repeat In loofe numbers wildly fweet Their feather-cinctur'd chiefs, and dufky loves. Her track, where-e'er the Goddefs roves, Glory purfue, and gen'rous Shame, Th' unconquerable Mind, and Freedom's holy flame.

II. 3.

Woods that wave o'er Delphi's fleep, Ifles, that crown th' Egean deep,

Fields,

88 THE PROGRESS OF POESY.

Fields, that cool Iliffus laves, Or where Mæander's amber waves In lingering lab'rinths creep, How do your tuneful echoes languish, Mute, but to the voice of Anguish? Where each old poetic mountain Infpiration breath'd around; Ev'ry fhade and hallow'd fountain Murmur'd deep a folemn found : Till the fad Nine, in Greece's evil hour, Left their Parnaffus for the Latian plains. Alike they fcorn the pomp of tyrant Power, And coward Vice, that revels in her chains. When Latium had her lofty fpirit loft, They fought, oh Albion! next thy fea-encircled coaft.

in the second second

III. I.

A PINDARIC ODE.

III. 1.

Far from the fun and fummer-gale, In thy green lap was Nature's darling laid, What time, where lucid Avon ftray'd, To him the mighty mother did unveil Her awful face: the dauntlefs child Stretch'd forth his little arms, and fmil'd. This pencil take (fhe faid) whofe colours clear Richly paint the vernal year: Thine too thefe golden keys, immortal boy! This can unlock the gates of Joy; Of Horror that, and thrilling Fears, Or ope the facred fource of fympathetic Tears.

III. 2.

Nor fecond he, that rode fublime Upon the feraph-wings of Ecftafy, The fecrets of th' abyfs to fpy. Hepafs'dthe flaming bounds of Place and Time: The

89

go: THE PROGRESS OF POESY.

The living throne, the fapphire blaze, Where angels tremble, while they gaze, He faw; but, blafted with excefs of light, Clos'd his eyes in endlefs night. Behold, where Dryden's lefs prefumptuous car, Wide o'er the fields of glory bear Two courfers of ethereal race, With necks in thunder cloth'd, and longrefounding pace.

III. 3.

at the later of the

A State of the

Hark, his hands the lyre explore ! Bright-ey'd Fancy, hov'ring o'er, Scatters from her pictur'd urn Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn. But ah! 'tis heard no more—— Oh! Lyre divine, what daring fpirit Wakes thee now? tho' he inherit

Nor

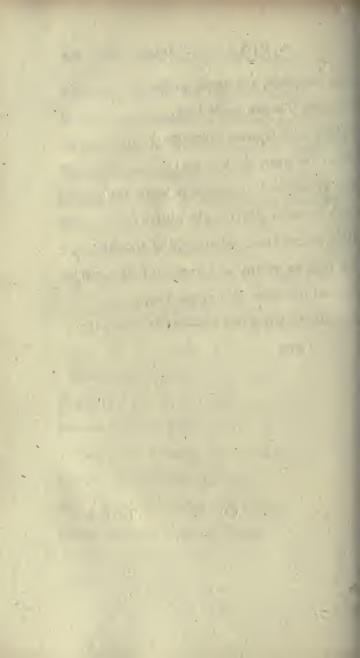
A PINDARIC ODE.

Nor the pride, nor ample pinion, That the Theban Eagle bear, Sailing with fupreme dominion Thro' the azure deep of air: Yet oft before his infant eyes would run Such forms as glitter in the Mufe's ray, With orient hues, unborrow'd of the fun: Yet fhall he mount, and keep his diftant way Beyond the limits of a vulgar fate, Beneath the Good how far—but far above the Great.

C

THE

91



THE A R D. B A

PINDARIC ODE.

G 2

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

The following Ode is founded on a Tradition current in Wales, that Edward the Firft, when he completed the conqueft of that country, ordered all the Bards that fell into his hands to be put to death.





The soft the start and the B A R D.

THE

A PINDARIC ODE.

A STATISTIC I. I. TALING

R UIN feize thee, ruthlefs King.
Confusion on thy banners wait;
Tho' fann'd by Conquest's crimfon wing,
They mock the air with idle state!
Helm, nor Hauberk's twisted mail,
Nor even thy virtues, Tyrant, shall avail
G 3 To

THE BARD.

96

* To fave thy fecret foul from nightly fears,
* From Cambria's curfe, from Cambria's tears!"
Such were the founds that o'er the crefted pride
Of the firft Edward fcatter'd wild difmay,
As down the fteep of Snowdon's fhaggy fide
He wound with toilfome march his long array.
Stout Glo'fter ftood aghaft in fpeechlefs trance!
To arms! cried Mortimer, and couch'd his quiv'ring lance.

I. 2.

On a rock, whofe haughty brow Frowns o'er old Conway's foaming flood, Robed in the fable garb of woe, With haggard eyes the Poet flood; (Loofe his beard, and hoary hair Stream'd, like a meteor, to the troubled air;) And with a mafter's hand, and prophet's fire, Struck the deep forrows of his lyre.

· Hark,

A PINDARIC ODE.

Hark, how each giant-oak, and defert-cave,
Sigh to the torrent's awful voice beneath!
O'er thee, oh King! their hundred arms

they wave,

- · Revengeontheein hoarfer murmurs breathe;
- Vocal no more, fince Cambria's fatal day,
- To high-born Hoel's harp, or foft Llewel-• lyn's lay.

1. 3.

- · Cold is Cadwallo's tongue,
- ' That hush'd the stormy main :
- Brave Urien fleeps upon his craggy bed :
- ' Mountains, ye mourn in vain
- · Modred, whofe magic fong
- Made huge Plinlimmon bow his cloud-top'd

· head.

G 4

• On

THE BARD.

98

• On dreary Arvon's fhore they lie, Smear'd with gore, and ghaftly pale: • Far, far aloof th' affrighted ravens fail; · The familh'd eagle fcreams, and paffes by. · Dear loft companions of my tuneful art, Dear, as the light that vifits thefe fad eyes, • Dear, as the ruddy drops that warm my heart, • Ye died amidft your dying country's cries-• No more I weep. They do not fleep. ' On yonder cliffs, a griefly band, • I fee them fit, they linger yet, ' Avengers of their native land : With me in dreadful harmony they join, · And weave with bloody hands the tiffue of • thy line.'

II. 1.

" Weave the warp, and weave the woof, " The winding-fheet of Edward's race.

" Give

A PINDARIC ODE.

" Give ample room, and verge enough " The characters of hell to trace.

" Mark the year, and mark the night," When Severn shall re-echo with affright" The shrieks of death, thro' Berkley's roofs

" that ring,

" Shrieks of an agonizing King!

" She-wolf of France, with unrelenting fangs," That tear'ft the bowels of thy mangled mate," From thee be born, who o'er thy country

" hangs

" The fcourge of Heav'n. What terrors " round him wait!

" Amazement in his van, with flight combin'd,
" And Sorrow's faded form, and Solitude
" behind.

II. 2.

" Mighty Victor, mighty Lord, Low on his funeral couch he lies!

T

99

" No

THE BARD.

- " No pitying heart, no eye, afford
- " A tear to grace his obfequies.
- " Is the fable warrior fled?

100

" Thy fon is gone. He refts among the dead. " The fwarm that in thy noon-tide beam were

" born?

Gone to falute the rifing Morn. [blows,
Fair laughs the Morn, and foft the zephyr
While proudly riding o'er the azure realm
In gallant trim the gilded veffel goes;

Youthon the prow, and pleafure at the helm;
Regardlefs of the fweeping Whirlwind's fway,
That, hufh'd in grim repofe, expects his
evening-prey.

II. 3.

- " Fill high the fparkling bowl,
- " The rich repaft prepare,
- " Reft of a crown, he yet may fhare the feaft;
- " Clofe by the regal chair

" Fell

A PINDARIE ODE.

" Fell thirst and famine fcowl A baleful fmile upon their baffled gueft. •• Heard ye the din of battle bray, ¢¢ " Lance to lance, and horfe to horfe? " 'Longyears of havocurge their deftin'd courfe, " And thro' the kindred fquadrons mow their " wav. " Ye tow'rs of Julius, London's lafting fhame, " With many a foul and midnight murder fed, " Revere his confort's faith, his father's fame, " And fpare the meek ufurper's holy head. " Above, below, the role of fnow, " Twin'd with her blufhing foe, we fpread! " The briftled boar in infant gore " Wallows beneath the thorny fhade. " Now, Brothers, bending o'er th' accurfed " loom

" Stamp we our vengeance deep, and ratify " his doom.

III.

TOL

THE BARD.

III. 1.

" Edward, lo! to fudden fate

- " (Weave we the woof. The thread is fpun.)
- " Half of thy heart we confecrate.
- " (The web is wove. The work is done.)"
- Stay, oh ftay! nor thus forlorn,
- ' Leave me unble fs'd, unpity'd, here to mourn:
- ' In yon bright track, that fires the western skies,
- ' They melt, they vanish from my eyes.
- · But oh! what folemn fcenes on Snowdon's
 - · height
- Defcending flow their glitt'ring fkirts unroll?
- · Vifions of glory! fpare my aching fight,
- ' Ye unborn ages, crowd not on my foul!
- · No more our long-loft Arthur we bewail.
- · All-hail, ye genuine Kings, Britannia's iffue,

TIT.

• hail!

A PINDARIC ODE,

III. 2.

Girt with many a Baron bold Sublime their ftarry fronts they rear; And gorgeous Dames, and Statefmen old In bearded majefty, appear. In the midft a form divine ! 6 Her eye proclaims her of the Briton-line : Her lion-port, her awe-commanding face, 6 Attemper'd fweet to virgin-grace. What ftrings fymphonious tremble in the air! · What ftrains of vocal transport round her play! Hear from the grave, great Talieffin, hear ; 6 They breathe a foul to animate thy clay. 6 Bright Rapture calls, and foaring, as fhe fings, Waves in the eye of Heaven her many-co-

· lour'd wings.

III.

THE BARD.

III. 3.

- The verfe adorn again
- Fierce War, and faithful Love,
- · And Truth fevere, by fairy Fiction dreft.
- · In bufkin'd meafures move
- · Pale Grief, and pleafing pain,
- · With Horror, tyrant of the throbbing breaft.
- · A voice, as of the cherub-choir,
- · Gales from blooming Eden bear;
- · And diftant warblings leffen on my ear,
- · That loft in long futurity expire.
- f Fond impious man, thinkft thou yon fan-

guine cloud,

- ? Rais'd by thy breath, has quench'd the orb
 of day ?
- · To-morrow he repairs the golden flood,
- And warms the nations with redoubled ray.

• Enough

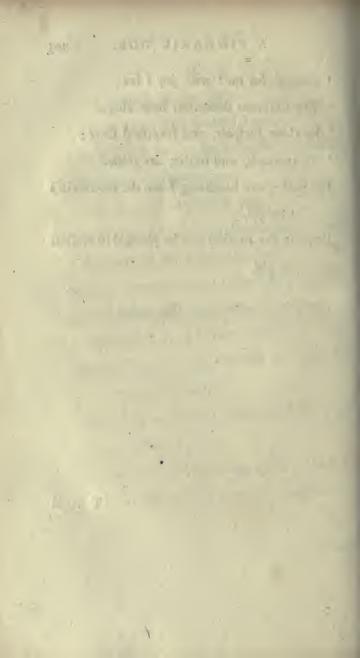
104

A PINDARIC ODE.

- Enough for me : with joy I fee
- * The different doom our fates affign.
- Be thine Defpair, and scepter'd Care;
- ⁶ To triumph, and to die, are mine.⁴
- He fpoke, and headlong, from the mountain's height,

Deep in the roaring tide he plung'd to endlefs night.

ТНЕ



THE

FATAL SISTERS.

AN ODE.

(From the Norse Tongue.)

To be found in the ORCADES of THERMODUS TORFÆUS; HAFNIÆ, 1697, Folio; and alfo in BARTHOLINUS.

VITT ER ORPIT FYRIR VALFALLI, &c.

the third I - top lien

H H

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

The author once had thoughts (in concert with a friend) of giving A History of English Poetry: In the Introduction to it he meant to have produced fome fpecimens of the ftyle that reigned in ancient times among the neighbouring nations, or those who had fubdued the greater part of this island, and were our progenitors: the following three imitations made a part of them. He afterwards dropped his defign ; especially after he had heard, that it was already in the hands of a perfon well qualified to do it justice, both by his tafte, and his refearches into antiquity.

P R E F A C E.

a descentioned at a lot of

N the eleventh century, Sigurd, Earl of the Orkney Islands, went with a fleet of ships, and a confiderable body of troops, into Ireland, to the affiftance of Sigtryg with the filken beard, who was then making war on his fatherin-law Brian, King of Dublin. The Earl and all his forces were cut to pieces, and Sigtryg was in danger of a total defeat; but the enemy had a greater lofs, by the death of Brian, their King, who fell in the action. On Christmas-day, (the day of the battle,) a native of Caithne/s in Scotland faw, at a diftance, a number of perfons on horfeback, riding full fpeed towards a hill, and feeming to enter into it. Curiofity led him to follow H 2 them;

PREFACE.

them; till looking through an opening in the rocks, he faw twelve gigantic figures refembling women: they were all employed about a loom, and as they wove, they fung the following dreadful fong; which when they had finifhed, they tore the web into twelve pieccs, and, each taking her portion, galloped fix to the north, and as many to the fouth.

Here and addition which merely and

TH

IIO





See the gristey texture grow ! Fis of human Entrails made, And the Weights that play below. Each a gasping Warnens Head .

Nov. 20th 1777. Publishid as the Act directs by J. Murray No 32 Fleetfreet London

THE

FATAL SISTERS.

A N O D E.

NOW the florm begins to lower, (Hafte, the loom of hell prepare,) Iron fleet of arrowy flower Hurtles in the darken'd air.

Glitt'ring lances are the loom, Where the dufky warp we ftrain, Weaving many a foldier's doom, Orkney's woe, and Randver's bane.

H 3

See

112 THE FATAL SISTERS.

See the grifly texture grow ! ('Tis of human entrails made,) And the weights that play below, Each a gafping warrior's head.

Shafts for fhuttles, dipt in gore, Shoot the trembling cords along. Sword, that once a monarch bore, Keep the tiffue clofe and firong.

Mista, black terrific maid, Sangrida, and Hilda, fee! Join the wayward work to aid: 'Tis the woof of victory.

Ere the ruddy fun be fet, Pikes must shiver, javelins sing, Blade with clatt'ring buckler meet, Hauberk crash, and helmet ring.

(Weave

ANODE. 113.

(Weave the crimfon web of war,) Let us go, and let us fly, Where our friends the conflict fhare, Where they triumph, where they die.

As the paths of fate we tread, Wading thro' th' enfanguin'd field, Gondula, and Geira, fpread O'er the youthful King your fhield.

We the reins to flaughter give, Ours to kill, and ours to fpare : Spite of danger he fhall live. (Weave the crimfon web of war.)

They, whom once the defert-beach Pent within its bleak domain, Soon their ample fway fhall ftretch O'er the plenty of the plain.

H 4

Block of

Low

114 THE FATAL SISTERS.

Low the dauntless Earl is laid, Gor'd with many a gaping wound : Fate demands a nobler head ; Soon a King shall bite the ground.

Long his lofs fhall Eirin weep, Ne'er again his likenefs fee; Long her ftrains in forrow fteep, Strains of immortality!

Horror covers all the heath, Clouds of carnage blot the fun. Sifters, weave the web of death. Sifters, ceafe: The work is done.

Hail the tafk, and hail the hands! Songs of joy and triumph fing; Joy to the victorious bands; Triumph to the younger King.

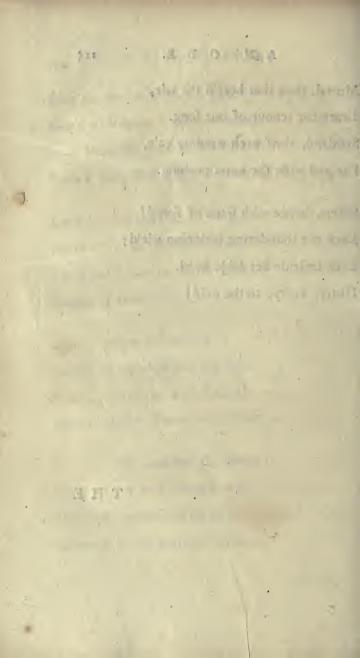
Mortal,

ANODE.

Mortal, thou that hear'ft the tale, Learn the tenour of our fong. Scotland, thro' each winding vale, Far and wide the notes prolong.

Sifters, hence with fpurs of fpeed! Each her thundering faulchion wield; Each bestride her fable steed. Hurry, hurry, to the field!

THE



THE

DESCENT OF ODIN.

ANODE.

(From the NORSE TONGUE.)

To be found in BARTHOLINUS, de causus contemnendæ mortis; HAFNIÆ, 1689, Quarto.

UPREIS ODINN ALLDA GAUTR, &C.







DESCENT of ODIN.

Facing to the northern clime, Thrice he trace the Runic rhyme; Thrice pronounce in accents dread, The thrilling verse that wakes the dead ! Published as the Act directs 15 Aug! 1776

THE DESCENT OF ODIN. AN ODE.

UPROSE the King of men with fpeed, And faddled firait his coal-black fleed: Down the yawning fleep he rode, That leads to HELA's drear abode. Him the dog of darknefs fpied; His fhaggy throat he opened wide, While from his jaws, with carnage fill'd, Foam and human gore diftill'd. Hoarfe he bays with hideous din, Eyes that glow, and fangs that grin;

And

120 THE DESCENT OF ODIN.

And long purfues, with fruitlefs yell, The father of the powerful fpell. Onward ftill his way he takes, (The groaning earth beneath him fhakes,) Till full before his fearlefs eyes The portals nine of hell arife.

Right againft the eaftern gate, By the mofs-grown pile he fat, Where long of yore to fleep was laid The duft of the prophetic Maid. Facing to the northern clime, Thrice he trac'd the Runic rhyme; Thrice pronounc'd, in accents dread, The thrilling verfe that wakes the dead; Till from out the hollow ground Slowly breath'd a fullen found.

PRO-

ANODE. 121

PROPHETESS.

What call unknown, what charms, prefume To break the quiet of the tomb? Who thus afflicts my troubled fprite, And drags me from the realms of night? Long on thefe mould'ring bones have beat The winter's fnow, the fummer's heat, The drenching dews, and driving rain! Let me, let me fleep again. Who is he, with voice unbleft, That calls me from the bed of reft?

ODIN.

A Traveller to thee unknown, Is he that calls, a warrior's fon. Thou the deeds of light fhalt know; Tell me what is done below, For whom yon glitt'ring board is fpread, Dreft for whom yon golden bed.

I

PRO-

123 THE DESCENT OF ODIN.

PROPHETESS.

Mantling in the goblet fee The pure bev'rage of the bee; O'er it hangs the fhield of gold: 'Tis the drink of *Balder* bold. *Balder*'s head to death is giv'n. Pain can reach the Sons of Heav'n! Unwilling I my lips unclofe: Leave me, leave me to repofe.

ODIN.

Once again my call obey. Prophetels, arile, and fay, What dangers *Odin*'s child await, Who the author of his fate.

PROPHETESS.

In Hoder's hand the hero's doom; His brother fends him to the tomb.

Now

ANODE.

123

Now my weary lips I clofe: Leave me, leave me to repofe.

O D I N. Prophetels, my fpell obey; Once again arife, and fay, Who th' avenger of his guilt, By whom fhall *Hoder*'s blood be fpilt.

Р к о́ р н е т е s s. In the caverns of the weft, By Odin's fierce embrace compreft, A wond'rous boy fhall *Rinda* bear, Who ne'er fhall comb his raven hair, Nor wafh his vifage in the ftream, Nor fee the fun's departing beam, Till he on *Hoder*'s corfe fhall fmile Flaming on the funeral pile. Now my weary lips I clofe: Leave me, leave me to repofe.

I

ODIN.

124 THE DESCENT OF ODIN.

ODIN.

Yet awhile my call obey; Prophetefs, awake, and fay, What Virgins thefe, in fpeechlefs woe, That bend to earth their folemn brow, That their flaxen treffes tear, And fnowy veils, that float in air. Tell me whence their forrows rofe: Then I leave thee to repofe.

PROPHETESS.

Ha! no Traveller art thou, King of Men, I know thee now; Mightieft of a mighty line——

ODIN.

No boding Maid of skill divine Art thou, nor Prophetess of good, But mother of the giant-brood!

PRO-

AN ODE.

PROPHETESS.

Hie thee hence, and boaft at home, That never fhall enquirer come To break my iron-fleep again; Till Lok has burft his tenfold chain. Never, till fubftantial Night Has reaffum'd her antient right; Till wrapt in flames, in ruin hurl'd, Sinks the fabric of the world.

THE



THE

TRIUMPHS OF OWEN.

A FRAGMENT.

FROM

Mr. EVAN s's Specimen of Welfh Poetry; London, 1764, Quarto.

I 3

ADVERTISEMENT.

OWEN fucceeded his father GRIFFIN in the principality of NORTH WALES, A. D. 1120. This battle was fought near forty years afterwards.

THE

TRIUMPHS OF OWEN.

A FRAGMENT.

WEN's praife demands my fong, OWEN fwift, and OWEN flrong; Faireft flower of Roderic's flem, Gwyneth's fhield, and Britain's gem. He nor heaps his brooded flores, Nor on all profufely pours; Lord of every regal art, Liberal hand, and open heart.

I 4

Big

130 TRIUMPHS OF OWEN.

Big with hofts of mighty name, Squadrons three againft him came; This the force of Eirin hiding; Side by fide as proudly riding, On her fhadow long and gay Lochlin plows the wat'ry way; There the Norman fails afar Catch the winds, and join the war: Black and huge along they fweep, Burthens of the angry deep.

Dauntless on his native fands The dragon-fon of Mona stands; In glittering arms and glory dress, High he rears his ruby cress. There the thundring strokes begin, There the press, and there the din; Talymalfra's rocky shore Echoing to the battle's roar.

Where

A FRAGMENT.

Where his glowing eye-balls turn, Thoufand banners round him burn: Where he points his purple fpear, Hafty, hafty Rout is there; Marking with indignant eye Fear to ftop, and fhame to fly. There Confusion, Terror's child; Conflict fierce, and Ruin wild; Agony, that pants for breath; Defpair, and honourable Death.

* * * * * * * *

ODE

131

A HAY ON THE and the second and the N . - 500

PERFORMED IN THE

SENATE-HOUSE

АТ

CAMBRIDGE, JULY 1, 1769,

At the INSTALLATION of his Grace AUGUSTUS-HENRY FITZROY, Duke of GRAFTON, CHANCELLOR of the University.



O D E FOR M U S I C.

IRREGULAR.

I.

HENCE, avaunt, ('tis holy ground)
Comus, and his midnight-crew,
And Ignorance with looks profound,
And dreaming Sloth of pallid hue,
Mad Sedition's cry profane,
Servitude that hugs her chain,
Nor in thefe confecrated bowers
Let painted Flatt'ry hide her ferpent-train

in Flowers.

" Nor

" Nor Envy bafe, nor creeping Gain

" Dare the Mufe's walk to ftain,

" While bright-eyed Science watches round :

" Hence, away, 'tis holy ground !"

II.

From yonder realms of empyrean day Burfts on my ear th' indignant lay: There fit the fainted Sage, the Bard divine, The Few, whom Genius gave to fhine Thro' every unborn age, and undifcover'd clime.

Rapt in celeftial transport they, Yet hither oft a glance from high They fend of tender fympathy To blefs the place, where on their opening foul First the genuine ardor stole.

'Twas Milton ftruck the deep-ton'd fhell, And, as the choral warblings round him fwell, Meek

Meek Newton's felf bends from his ftate fublime, And nods his hoary head, and liftens to the rhyme.

III.

" Ye brown o'er-arching Groves,

" That Contemplation loves,

- " Where willowy Camus lingers with delight!
- " Oft at the blufh of dawn
- " I trod your level lawn,
- " Oftwoo'd the gleam of Cynthia filver-bright
- " In cloifters dim, far from the haunts of Folly,
- " With Freedom by my fide, and foft-ey'd " Melancholy."

IV.

But hark! the portals found, and pacing forth With folemn fteps and flow, High Potentates, and Dames of royal birth, And mitred Fathers in long order go:

İ

Great Edward, with the lilies on his brow From haughty Gallia torn,

And fad Chatillon, on her bridal morn

That wept her bleeding Love, and princely Clare,

And Anjou's Heroine, and the paler Rofe, The rival of her crown and of her woes, And either Henry there, The murder'd Saint, and the majeftic Lord, That broke the bonds of Rome. (Their tears, their little triumphs o'er, Their human paffions now no more, Save Charity, that glows beyond the tomb) All that on Granta's fruitful plain Rich ftreams of regal bounty pour'd, And bad thefe awful fanes and turrets rife, To hail their Fitzroy's festal morning come : And thus they fpeak in foft accord The liquid language of the fkies.

v.

ten in vie V. I am et al /

What is Grandeur, what is Power?Heavier toil, fuperior pain.What the bright reward we gain?

" The grateful memory of the Good.

" Sweet is the breath of vernal fhower,

" The bee's collected treasures fweet,

" Sweet mufic's melting fall, but fweeter yet " The ftill fmall voice of Gratitude,"

VI.

Foremoft and leaning from her golden cloud, The venerable Marg'ret fee! "Welcome, my noble Son, (fhe cries aloud) "To this, thy kindred train, and me: "Pleas'd in thy lineaments we trace "A Tudor's fire, a Beaufort's grace. "Thy liberal heart, thy judging eye, "The flower unheeded fhall defcry,

K

eli///

" And

139

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" And bid it round heav'n's altars fhed
" The fragrance of its blufhing head:
" Shall raife from earth the latent gem
" To glitter on the diadem.

VII.

Lo, Granta waits to lead her blooming band,
Not obvious, not obtrufive, She
No vulgar praife, no venal incenfe flings;
Nor dares with courtly tongue refin'd
Profane thy inborn royalty of mind:
She reveres herfelf and thee.
With modeft pride to grace thy youthful
" brow

" The laureate wreath, that Cecil wore, fhe " brings,

" And to thy just, thy gentle hand " Submits the Fasces of her fway,

Sin ? >

" While

The second ship and

" While Spirits bleft above and Men below " Join with glad voice the loud fymphonious " lay.

VIII.

" Thro' the wild waves as they roar
" With watchful eye and dauntlefs mien
" Thy fteady courfe of honour keep,
" Nor fear the rocks, nor feek the fhore :
" The Star of Brunfwick fmiles ferene,
" And gilds the horrors of the deep."

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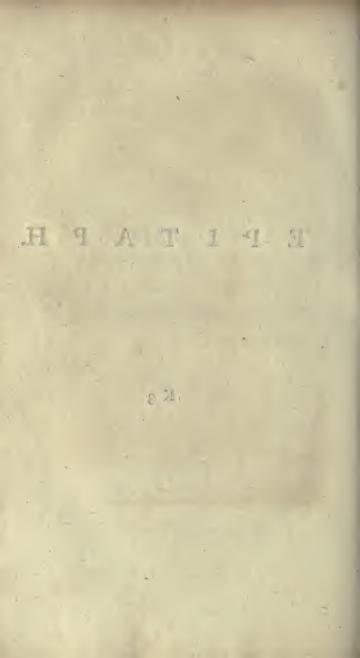
Chevither with converses they mer (1) Willy your first over and disarcer's onen
 (2) Whether could will be bound 2 org;
 (3) Wat benefits onen; not first one for the first one;
 (3) And [3] A we have set of the draw.

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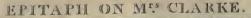
145

E P I T A P H.

Кз









Lo! where this silent marble weeps, A Friend, a WIFE, a Mother Steeps.

Published Nov: 1783, by J.MURBAY, 32, Fleet Street

Suplim the filmed of so IA. O N G. CLARKE. MRS.

was the shirt are not this is a saw.

P

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AL DUCKSTER

TAP

Mail and any on the plant to and the

LO! where this filent marble weeps, A Friend, a Wife, a Mother fleeps; A Heart, within whole facred cell The peaceful Virtues lov'd to dwell. Affection warm, and Faith fincere, And foft Humanity were there. In agony, in death refign'd, She felt the wound fhe left behind.

K 4

Her

EPITAPH, &c.

146

Her infant image, here below, Sits fmiling on a father's woe: Whom what awaits, while yet he ftrays Along the lonely vale of days? A pang to fecret forrow dear; A figh; an unavailing tear; Till Time fhall ev'ry grief remove, With Life, with Memory, and with Love.

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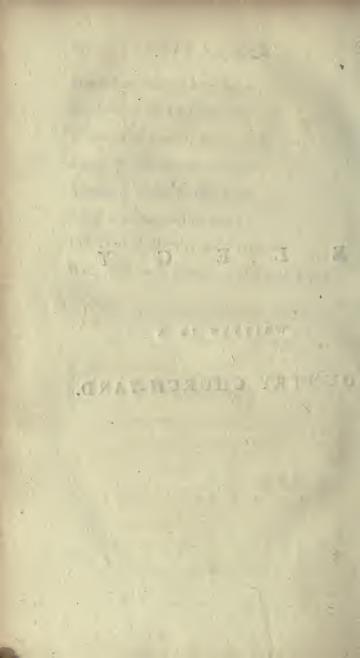
The house of Street and

ELEGY

ELEGY

WRITTEN IN A

COUNTRY CHURCH-YARD.



ELEGY

WRITTEN IN A

COUNTRY CHURCH-YARD.

T H E Curfew tolls the knell of parting day, The lowing herd wind flowly o'er the lea, The plowman homeward plods his weary way, And leaves the world to darknefs, and to me.

Now fades the glimmering landscape on the fight, And all the air a folemn stillness holds, Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight, And drowfy tinklings lull the distant folds;

Save

150 ELEGY WRITTEN IN A

Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tower, The moping owl does to the moon complain Of fuch, as wand'ring near her fecret bower, Moleft her antient folitary reign.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree's shad Where heaves the turf in many a mouldring heap Each in his narrow cell for ever laid, The rude Foressathers of the hamlet sleep.

The breezy call of incenfe-breathing Morn, The fwallow twitt'ring from the ftraw-built fhe The cock's fhrill clarion, or the echoing horn, No more fhall roufe them from their lowly be

For them no more the blazing hearth fhall bur Or bufy houfewife ply her evening-care; No children run to lifp their fire's return, Or climb his knees the envied kifs to fhare,

COUNTRY CHURCH-YARD. 154

Oft did the harveft to their fickle yield, Their furrow oft the flubborn glebe has broke : Iow jocund did they drive their team afield ! Iow bow'd the woods beneath their flurdy flroke!

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil, Their homely joys, and deftiny obscure; Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile, The short and simple annals of the poor.

The boaft of heraldry, the pomp of power, And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave, Await alike th' inevitable hour. The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Nor you, ye proud, impute to thefe the fault, If Memory o'er their tomb no trophies raife, Where thro' the long-drawn ifle and fretted vault, The pealing anthem fwells the note of praife.

Can

152 ELEGY WRÍTTEN IN Á

Can ftoried utn or animated buft, Back to its manfion call the fleeting breath? Can Honour's voice provoke the filent duft, Or flattery footh the dull cold ear of Death?

Perhaps in this neglected fpot is laid Some heart once pregnant with celeftial fire; Hands that the rod of empire might have fway'd, Or wak'd to ecftafy the living lyre.

But Knowledge to their eyes her ample page Rich with the fpoils of Time did ne'er unroll; Chill Penury reprefs'd their noble rage, And froze the genial current of the foul.

Full many a gem of pureft ray ferene, The dark unfathom'd caves of Ocean bear: Full many a flower is born to blufh unfeen, And wafte its fweetnefs on the defert air.

100

Some

COUNTRY CHURCH-YARD. 153

Some village-Hampden, that with dauntlefs breaft, The little tyrant of his fields withftood, Some mute inglorious Milton here may reft, Some Cromwell guiltlefs of his country's blood.

Th' applause of lift'ning fenates to command, The threats of pain and ruin to despise, To fcatter plenty o'er a smiling land, And read their hist'ry in a nation's eyes,

Their lot forbade: nor circumfcrib'd alone Their growing virtues, but their crimes confin'd; Forbade to wade thro' flaughter to a throne, And fhut the gates of mercy to mankind,

The ftruggling pangs of confcious Truth to hide, To quench the blufhes of ingenuous Shame, Or heap the fhrine of Luxury and Pride With incenfe kindled at the Mufe's flame.

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154 ELEGY WRITTEN IN A

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble ftrife, Their fober wifhes never learn'd to ftray; Along the cool fequefter'd vale of life They kept the noifelefs tenour of their way.

Yet ev'n these bones from infult to protect Some frail memorial still erected nigh, With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture Implores the passing tribute of a sigh. [deck'd,

Their name, their years, fpelt by th' unletter'd The place of fame and elegy fupply; [Mufe, And many a holy text around fhe ftrews, That teach the ruftic moralift to die.

For who to dumb Forgetfulnefs a prey, This pleafing anxious being e'er refign'd, Left the warm precincts of the chearful day, Nor caft one longing ling'ring look behind ?

On

COUNTRY CHURCH-YARD. 155

On fome fond breaft the parting foul relies, Some pious drops the clofing eye requires; Ev'n from the tomb the voice of Nature cries, Ev'n in our afhes live their wonted fires.

For thee, who mindful of th' unhonour'd Dead Doft in thefe lines their artlefs tale relate; If chance, by lonely Contemplation led, Some kindred fpirit fhall inquire thy fate,

Haply fome hoary-headed fwain may fay,
Oft have we feen him at the peep of dawn,
Brufhing with hafty fleps the dews away
To meet the fun upon the upland lawn.

There at the foot of yonder nodding beech,
That wreathes its old fantaftic roots fo high,
His liftlefs length at noon-tide would he ftretch,
And pore upon the brook that babbles by.

• Hard

156 ELEGY WRITTEN IN A

Hard by yon wood, now finiling as in fcorn,
Mutt'ring his wayward fancies he would rove;
Now drooping, woeful wan, like one forlorn,
Or craz'd with care, or crofs'd in hopelefs love.

- One morn I mifs'd him on the cuftom'd hill,
 Along the heath and near his favourite tree;
 Another came; nor yet befide the rill,
 Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he:
- The next with dirges due in fad array
- Slow thro' the church-way path we faw him
 borne,
- · Approach and read (for thou canft read) the lay
- Grav'd on the ftone, beneath yon aged thorn.'

Тне

COUNTRY CHURCH-YARD. 157

THE EPITAPH.

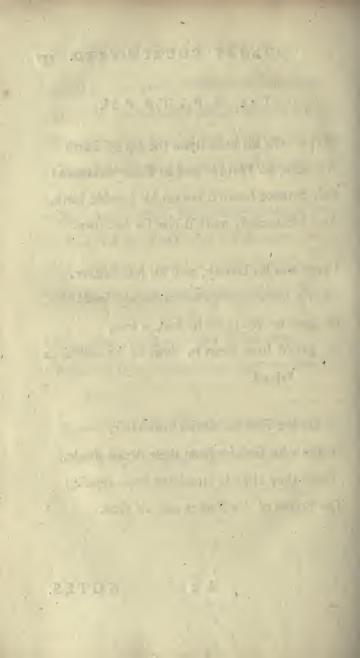
HERE refts his head upon the lap of Earth A Youth, to Fortune and to Fame unknown: Fair Science frown'd not on his humble birth, And Melancholy mark'd him for her own.

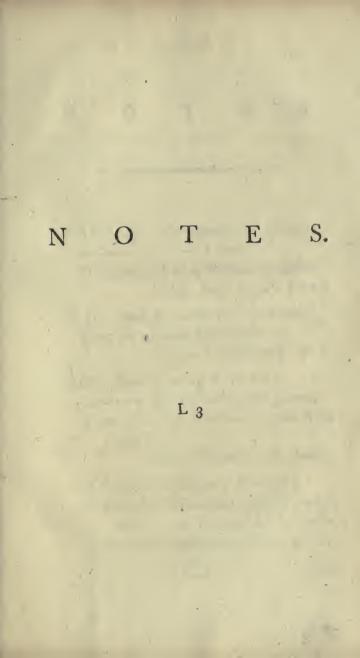
Large was his bounty, and his foul fincere, Heav'n did a recompence as largely fend: He gave to Mis'ry all he had, a tear, He gain'd from Heav'n, 'twas all he wifh'd, a Friend.

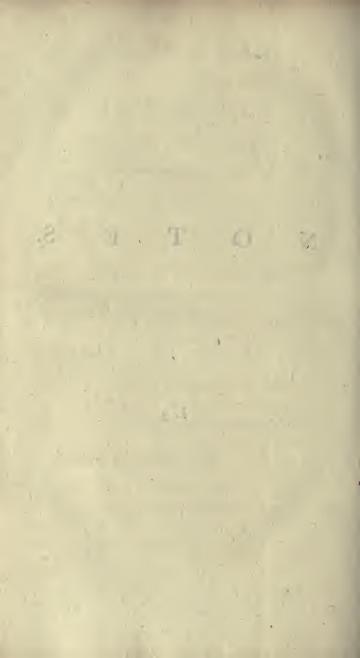
No farther feek his merits to difclofe, Or draw his frailties from their dread abode, (There they alike in trembling hope repofe,) The bofom of his Father and his God.

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NOTES.







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PAGE 44. O'er-canopies the glade.]

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S.

O'er-canopied with luscious woodbine. Shakefp. Mids. Night's Dream.

P. 45. And float amid the liquid noon.] Nare per æftatem liquidam— Virgil. Georg. lib. 4.

Ibid. Quick-glancing to the fun.] ——— fporting with quick glance, Shew to the fun their wav'd coats dropt with gold.

Milton's Paradife Loft, book 7.

Ibid. To Contemplation's fober eye.]
While infects from the threshold preach, &c. M. GREEN, in the Grotto. Dodfley's Miscellanies, Vol. 5. p. 161.

L 4

Page

Page 55. Her HENRY's holy shade.]

King HENRY the Sixth, founder of the College.

P. 56. And, redolent of joy and youth.] And bees their honey redolent of fpring. Dryden's Fable on the Pythag. System.

P. 59. And moody Madness laughing wild.] And Madness laughing in his ireful mood. Dryden's Fable of Palamon and Arcite.

P. 66. My grave Lord-Keeper led the Brawls.]

Hatton, preferred by Queen Elizabeth for his graceful perfon and fine Dancing.

P. 71. Styack] The Houfe-keeper.

P. 72. Squib] Groom of the Chambers.

Ibid. Groom] The Steward.

Ibid. *Macleane*] A famous Highwayman hanged the week before.

P. 83. Awake, Æolian lyre, awake.]

Awake, my glory: awake, lute and harp. David's Pfalms.

Pindar styles his own poetry, with its mufical accompanyments, Αἰολίς μολπη Αἰολίδες χορδαὶ, χορδαί, Αἰολίδων ϖνοαι αὐλῶν. Æolian fong, Æolian ftrings, the breath of the Æolian flute.

The fubject and fimile, as ufual with Pindar, are here united. The various fources of poetry, which gives life and luftre to all it touches, are here defcribed; as well in its quiet majeftic progrefs enriching every fubject (otherwife dry and barren) with all the pomp of diction, and luxuriant harmony of numbers; as in its more rapid and irrefiftible courfe, when fwoln and hurried away by the conflict of tumultuous paffions.

P. 84. Ob! Sovereign of the willing foul.]

Power of harmony to calm the turbulent paffions of the foul. The thoughts are borrowed from the first Pythian of Pindar.

Ibid. Perching on the sceptred hand.]

This is a weak imitation of fome beautiful lines in the fame ode.

P. 85. Thee the voice, the dance obey.]

Power of harmony to produce all the graces of motion in the body.

- (11)

P.

P. 85. Glance their many-twinkling feet.] Μαρμαρυίας Ξηέιτο σοδών· Ξαύμαζε δε Ξυμφ. Homer. Od. o.

P. 86. The bloom of young defire, and purple light of Love.]
 Δάμπει δ' ἐπὶ ϖορφυρέησι
 Παρείησι φῶς ἔρωτ[©].

PHRYNICUS, apud Athenæum.

Ibid. Man's feeble race what ills await !]

To compendate the real or imaginary ills of life, the Mufe was given us by the fame Providence that fends the day, by its cheerful prefence to difpel the gloom and terrors of the night.

Ibid. Till down the eastern cliffs afar.]

Or feen the Morning's well-appointed flar Come marching up the eaftern hills afar. COWLEY.

P. 87. In climes beyond the folar road.

Extensive influence of poetic genius over the remoteft and most uncivilized nations: its connection with liberty, and the virtues that naturally attend on it. [See the Erfe, Norwegian, and Welsh Fragments, the Lapland and American fongs, &c.]

" Extra

NOTES.

" Extra anni folifque vias—" VIRGIL. " Tutta lontana dal camin del fole."

PETRARCH, Canzon 2.

P. 87. Woods that wave o'er Delphi's fteep.] Progrefs of Poetry from Greece to Italy, and from Italy to England. Chaucer was not unacquainted with the writings of Dante or of Petrarch. The Earl of Surry and Sir Thomas Wyatt had travelled in Italy, and formed their tafte there. Spenfer imitated the Italian writers, and Milton improved on them: but this fchool expired foon after the Reftoration, and a new one arofe on the French model, which has fubfifted ever fince.

P. 89. Nature's darling.] Shakespeare.

Ibid. Nor fecond be, that rode fublime.] Milton.

Ibid. He pass'd the flaming bounds of Place and Time.]

" ----- flammantia mœnia mundi."

LUCRETIUS.

P. 90. The living throne, the fapphire blaze.] For the fpirit of the living creature was in the wheels.—And above the firmament that was was over their heads, was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire store. —This was the appearance of the glory of the Lord. *Ezekiel* i. 20, 26, 28.

P. 90. Clos'd bis eyes in endlefs night.] [']Οφθαλμῷν μὲν ἄμερσε· δίδε δ' ἀδεῖαν ἀοιδὴν. Hom. Op.

Ibid. Two courfers of ethereal race.] Meant to express the flately march and founding energy of Dryden's rhymes.

Ibid. With necks in thunder cloth'd, and long-refounding pace.]

Haft thou clothed his neck with thunder? Job.

Ibid. Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn.]

Words that weep, and tears that fpeak. Cowley.

Ibid. But ab! 'tis heard no more-]

We have had in our language no other odes of the fublime kind, than that of Dryden on St. Cecilia's day: for Cowley, who had his merit, yet wanted judgment, flyle, and harmony, for fuch a tafk. That of Pope is not worthy worthy of fo great a man. Mr. Mafon indeed, of late date days has touched the true chords, and with a mafterly hand, in fome of his chorufes,—above all in the laft of Caractacus:

Hark! heard ye not yon footftep dread? &c.

P. 91. That the Theban Eagle bear.]

 $\Delta_{i\delta s} \ \varpi_{p\delta s} \ \delta_{pvi} \ \chi \alpha \ \Im_{\epsilon i\delta v}$. Olymp. 2. Pindar compares himfelf to that bird, and his enemies to ravens that croak and clamour in vain below, while it purfues its flight, regardlefs of their noife.

P. 95. They mock the air with idle state !] Mocking the air with colours idly spread. SHAKESPEARE's King John.

Ibid. Helm, nor Hauberk's twisted mail.]

The Hauberk was a texture of fteel ringlets, or rings interwoven, forming a coat of mail, that fat clofe to the body, and adapted itfelf to every motion.

P. 96. ——— the crefted pride.] The crefted adder's pride. DRYDEN's Indian Queen.

P. 96. As down the steep of Snowdon's shaggy fide.]

Snowdon was a name given by the Saxons to that mountainous tract which the Welfh themfelves call *Craigian-eryri*: it included all the highlands of Caernarvonfhire and Merionethfhire, as far as the river Conway. R. Hygden, fpeaking of the caftle of Conway, built there by King Edward the Firft, fays, "Ad ortum amnis Conway ad clivum montis " Erery;" and Matthew of Weftminfter (ad ann. 1283), " Apud Aberconway ad pedes " montis Snowdoniæ fecit erigo caftrum forte."

Ibid. Stout Glo'ster stood agbast----]

Gilbert de Clare, furnamed the Red, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, fon-in-law to King Edward.

Ibid. To arms! cried Mortimer-]

Edmond de Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore.

They both were *Lords Marchers*, whofe lands lay on the borders of Wales, and probably accompanied the King in this expedition.

Ibid. Loofe bis beard, and boary bair.]

The image was taken from a well-known picture of Raphael, reprefenting the Supreme Being

NOTES.

Being in the vifion of Ezekiel. There are two of these paintings, both believed original, one at Florence, the other at Paris.

P. 96. Stream'd, like a meteor, to the troubled air.]

Shone, like a meteor, ftreaming to the wind. MILTON'S Paradife Loft.

P. 98. On dreary Arvon's shore---]

The fhores of Caernarvonshire opposite to the isle of Anglesey.

Ibid. The famish'd eagle screams, and passes by.]

Camden and others obferve, that eagles ufed annually to build their aerie among the rocks of Snowdon, which from thence (as fome think) were named by the Welfh *Craigianeryri*, or the crags of the eagles. At this day (I am told) the higheft point of Snowdon is called *the Eagle's Neft*. That bird is certainly no ftranger to this ifland, as the Scots, and the people of Cumberland, Weftmorland, &c. can teftify: it even has built its neft in the Peak of Derbyfhire. [See Willoughby's Ornithol. publifhed by Ray.]

P. 98. Dear, as the light that visits these [ad eyes.]

As dear to me as are the ruddy drops That vifit my fad heart-

SHAKESPEARE'S Jul. Cafar.

Ibid. And weave with bloody hands the tiffue of thy line.]

See the Norwegian ode that follows.

P. 99. Shrieks of an agonizing King !]

Edward the Second, cruelly butchered in Berkley-caftle.

Ibid. She-wolf of France-]

Ifabel of France, Edward the Second's adulterous Queen.

Ibid. From thee be born, &c.]

Triumphs of Edward the Third in France.

Ibid. Low on his funeral couch he lies !]

Death of that king, abandoned by his children, and even robbed in his last moments by his courtiers and his mistrefs.

P. 100. Is the fable warrior fled?

Edward the Black Prince, dead fome time before his father. P.

P. 100. Fair laughs the Morn, &c.] Magnificence of Richard the Second's reign. See Froiffard and other contemporary writers.

Ibid. Fill high the sparkling bowl.]

Richard the Second, as we are told by Archbishop Scroop and the confederate Lords in their manifesto, by Thomas of Walsingham, and all the older writers, was starved to death. The story of his assistant of by Sir Piers of Exon, is of much later date.

P. 101. Heard ye the din of battle bray.] Ruinous civil wars of York and Lancaster.

Ibid. Ye tow'rs of Julius.]

Henry the Sixth, George Duke of Clarence, Edward the Fifth, Richard Duke of York, &c. believed to be murdered fecretly in the Tower of London. The oldeft part of that ftructure is vulgarly attributed to Julius Cæfar.

Ibid. Revere bis confort's faith-----]

Margaret of Anjou, a woman of heroic fpirit, who ftruggled hard to fave her hufband and her crown.

Ibid. — bis father's fame.] Henry the Fifth.

M

Ibid.

Ibid. And spare the meek usurper's boly bead.]

Henry the Sixth, very near being canonized. The line of Lancaster had no right of inheritance to the crown.

Ibid. — the rose of snow, &c.]

The white and red rofes, devices of York and Lancaster.

Ibid. The briftled boar -----]

The filver boar was the badge of Richard the Third; whence he was ufually known in his own time by the name of the Boar.

P. 102. Half of thy heart we consecrate.]

Eleanor of Caftile died a few years after the conqueft of Wales. The heroic proof fhe gave of her affection for her lord is well known. The monuments of his regret and forrow for the lofs of her, are ftill to be feen at Northampton, Gaddington, Waltham, and other places.

P. 102. No more our long-lost Arthur we bewail.]

It was the common belief of the Welfh nation, that King Arthur was still alive in Fairyland,

. 172

land, and fhould return again to reign over Britain.

Ibid. All-bail, ye genuine Kings, Britannia's isfue, bail !]

Both Merlin and Talieffin had prophefied, that the Welfh fhould regain their fovereignty over this ifland; which feemed to be accomplifhed in the houfe of Tudor.

P. 103. Her lion-port, her awe-commanding face.]

Speed, relating an audience given by Queen Elizabeth to Paul Dzialinfki, ambaffador of Poland, fays, 'And thus fhe, lion-like rifing, ' daunted the malapert orator no lefs with her ' ftately port and majeftical deporture, than ' with the tartneffe of her princelie checkes.'

Ibid. Hear from the grave, great Taliesfin.]

Talieffin, chief of the Bards, flourished in the fixth century. His works are still preferved, and his memory held in high veneration among his countrymen.

P. 104. Fierce War, and faithful Love.]

Fierce wars and faithful loves fhall moralize my fong. SPENSER's Proem to the Fairy Queen.

Ibid.

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Ibid. In buskin'd measures move.] Shakespeare.

Ibid. A voice, as of the cherub-choir.] Milton.

Ibid. And diftant warblings leffen on my ear.] . The fucceffion of Poets after Milton's time.

P. 111. Note.—The Valkyriur were female divinities, fervants of Odin (or Woden) in the Gothic mythology. Their name fignifies Chufers of the flain. They were mounted on fwift horfes, with drawn fwords in their hands; and in the throng of battle felected fuch as were deftined to flaughter, and conducted them to Valhalla, (the hall of Odin, or paradife of the brave,) where they attended the banquet, and ferved the departed heroes with horns of mead and ale.

Ibid. Iron fleet of arrowy flower.] How quick they wheel'd, and, flying, behind them flot Sharp fleet of arrowy flower.— MILT. Par. Regained.

Ibid. Hurtles in the darken'd air.] The noife of battle hurtled in the air. SHAKES. Jul. Caf. P.

P. 114. Long bis loss shall Eirin weep.] Ireland.

P. 119. That leads to HELA's drear abode.] Niflbeimr, the hell of the Gothic nations, confifted of nine worlds, to which were devoted all fuch as died of ficknefs, old age, or by any other means than in battle. Over it prefided HELA, the Goddefs of Death.

P. 125. Till Lok bas burft his tenfold chain.]

Lok is the Evil Being, who continues in chains till the *Twilight of the Gods* approaches; when he fhall break his bonds; the human race, the ftars, and fun, fhall difappear; the earth fink in the feas, and fire confume the fkies: even Odin himfelf and his kindred deities fhall perifh. For a farther explanation of this mythology, fee "Introduction a l'Hif-" toire de Dannemarc, par Monf. Mallet," 1755, Quarto; or rather a translation of it publifhed in 1770, and intitled, " Northern " Antiquities;" in which fome miftakes in the original are judicioufly corrected.

P. 129. Gwyneth.] North Wales.

P. 130. Lochlin.] Denmark.

Ibid. The dragon-son of Mona stands.]

The red Dragon is the device of Cadwallador, which all his defcendants bore on their banners. P.

P. 138. Great Edward, with the lilies on bis brow.]

Edward the Third, who added the fleur de lys of France to the arms of England. He founded Trinity College.

Ibid. And fad Chatillon, on her bridal morn.]

Mary de Valentia, Countefs of Pembroke, daughter of Guy de Chatillon Comte de St. Paul in France: of whom tradition fays, that her hufband Audemar de Valentia, Earl of Pembroke, was flain at a tournament on the day of his nuptials. She was the foundrefs of Pembroke College or Hall, under the name of Aula Mariæ de Valentia.

Ibid. _____ and princely Clare.]

Elizabeth de Burg, Countels of Clare, was wife of John de Burg, fon and heir of the Earl of Ulfter, and daughter of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, by Joan of Acres, daughter of Edward the First. Hence the Poet gives her the epithet of *princely*. She founded Clare-Hall.

P. 138. And Anjou's Heroine, and the paler Rofe.]

Margaret of Anjou, wife of Henry the Sixth, foundrefs of Queen's College. The Poet

Poet has celebrated her conjugal fidelity in The Bard, Epode 2d, Line 13th.

Elizabeth Widville, wife of Edward the Fourth, hence called the paler role, as being of the house of York. She added to the foundation of Margaret of Anjou.

Ibid. And either Henry there.] Henry the Sixth and Eighth. The former the founder of King's, the latter the greatest benefactor to Trinity College.

P. 139. The venerable Marg'ret See !]

Countefs of Richmond and Derby; the mother of Henry the Seventh, foundrefs of St. John's and Chrift's Colleges.

Ibid. A Tudor's fire, a Beaufort's grace.]

The Countels was a Beaufort, and married to a Tudor: hence the application of this line to the Duke of Grafton, who claims defcent from both these families.

P. 140. The laureate wreathe, that Cecil wore.]

Lord Treafurer Burleigh was Chancellor of the University, in the reign of Q. Elizabeth.

P. 145. Epitaph on Mrs. Clarke.] This Lady, the wife of Dr. Clarke, Phylician at Epfom,

NOTES.

Epfom, died April 12, 1757; and is buried in the church of Beckenham, Kent.

P. 149. The Curfew tolls the knell of parting day.]

---- fquilla di lontano

Che paia 'l giorno pianger, che fi muore. DANTE, Purgat. l. 8.

P. 155. Ev'n in our ashes live their wonted fires.]

Ch'i veggio nel penfier, dolce mio fuoco, Fredda una lingua, & due begli occhi chiufi Rimaner doppo noi pien di faville.

PETRARCH, Son. 169.

157. Grav'd on the stone, beneath yon aged thorn.]

In the first edition of this poem, the following beautiful lines were inferted immediately before the epitaph; but they have been fince omitted, as the parenthesis was too long.

There fcatter'd oft, the earlieft of the year, By hands unfeen, are fhow'rs of violets found; The redbreaft loves to build and warble there, And little footfieps lightly print the ground.

FINIS.



